



NEWSLETTER
Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties

Vol.29, No. 3
ISSN 1079-2198
Fall 2003

Sylvester Manor Excavation

The Summer 2003 UMass-Boston Field School uncovered a number of mysterious features in a complex area east of the previous lawn units, pinpointed as anomalies by the geophysics techniques utilized earlier. It is felt that there is evidence of a structure and that the plantation's slaughtering operation was carried out there, probably by Native Americans. The top third of a collared clay vessel was found, whose handle (rare on Native pots) may be evidence of African or European influence.

Two high-tech archaeological techniques were used this summer. One was the raising of a .50 centimeter block of a square's stratigraphy as a unit so that it could be taken to the UMass lab and excavated horizontally rather than the usual vertical approach. Since it weighed 800 pounds, it was quite a feat to separate it and encase it in an enclosure to transport it.



SCAA cinematographer Ofer Cohen filming the raising of "the block" by UMass-Boston grad student Kat and conservator Dennis Piechota.

For the SCAA film, **The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island**, co-directors Ofer Cohen and Dr. Gaynell Stone spent 3 days at the UMass-Boston labs in May photographing the faunal lab of Dr. David Landon, the ethnobotanical lab of Dr. Heather Trigg, the soil flotation lab, the material culture lab, and the conservation lab.

This year's 1 month field school was followed by a National Science Foundation-funded 6 weeks of lab work using the latest scientific techniques. So many artifacts have been found that it has not been possible to process all of them from year to year.



Here they are seen filming Dennis Piechota in the conservation lab.

The 2003 'dig' evidence continues to show the contact and extensive interaction of the Native people and the Sylvesters. These remains are giving new insight into the Contact and Early Historic Periods on Long Island.

Recent Contract Archaeology Work in Suffolk County

Brookhaven Town

SHPO Report 548, 5/00, Inst. for L.I. Archaeology/David Bernstein.

Archaeological site file/literature search report, report of field reconnaissance, archaeological site evaluation of Holterbosch property, Belle Terre.

Two knolls separated by a gully on Harbor Hill end moraine along the north shore of L.I. evaluated for a subdivision. Phase II: additional shovel tests along with some units dug to analyze greater sample of cultural material to better assess the nature and stratigraphic distribution of artifacts found during shovel testing. No prehistoric features found. Small early 20th century shallow pit or depression encountered. Artifacts: quartz and quartzite debitage, bifaces, cores, battered cobbles. No prehistoric materials other than lithics encountered in either field work stage. Some historic finds. Site not eligible (for National Register nomination).

SHPO Report No. 561, 12/01. Phase II CRA Study, Hamlet at Willow Creek, Mt. Sinai. Robert Kalin.

Previous survey revealed a dispersed surface scatter of both historic and prehistoric materials in northern half of study area. Phase II investigated the northeast portion of the proposed construction site. Shovel tests, surface observations. Results showed wide scatter of artifacts with no discernable sub-surface manifestations. Cultural evidence suggests hunting and post-hunt game-dressing activities; a smeared pattern of artifact distribution is attributed to soil disruptions carried out in the 1950s when earth moving machinery was used to clear the

site of trees. Historic finds: ironstone, pearlware, stoneware, creamware, coal, bottle glass, butchered bone. Historic material widely scattered; none recovered from below the surface. Prehistoric finds: milky quartz, one a roughed out point or biface stone blade, other a large percussion or shatter flake. Recommended no further work.

East Hampton Town

SHPO Report No. 533, 4/01. Jo-Ann McLean. Cultural Resources Survey, Stage 1B & II, Montauk Light Station. Was the first lighthouse built in N.Y. State during the presidency of George Washington. A gift shop was to be built in the northwest corner of the property. Shovel tests, unit. Subject of Phase II was the coal feature found earlier. Winchester cartridge casing established terminus post quem of 1897 for the feature. Some of the feature remains; recommend avoidance. Second feature was thick cement slab with pebble inclusions; soils underneath were coal feature soils. Slab was a discarded cement slab that had been deposited on top of the coal deposit. Other finds during testing: gunflint made from local flint (? None on L.I.), colonial white clay pipe stem, glass bottle, whiteware, brick, porcelain, bird bone, flat glass. Coal-filled area probably a depression used to discard coal waste.

Town of Smithtown

SHPO Report No. 513, 4/01. Tracker Archaeological Services. Phase II intensive testing of the Weinstein Site #1, Nissequogue, for a proposed subdivision. Shovel tests and units found the site boundaries are limited to the project area. It's limited in size and dimension by the 3 fresh water ponds and topographical location along a moderate south-facing slope. Finds: debitage, flakes, cobbles, cores, projective points (Normanskill or Lamoka; straight stemmed base, unidentified), a knife, bifaces, uniface, metate, fire-cracked rock. Almost all finds were of quartz. Assemblage suggests a base camp with a few different activities occurring on the site, including hunting, butchering, hide preparation, camping and cooking, final stages of lithic reduction. Multiple visits suggested by fire-cracked rock in separate areas. Suggests each area may have had a different activity associated with it. For example, EU3 and 4 had no fire-cracked rock recovered, implying this area may have been a distinct working station as the only points found were recovered here. It may have been a butchering station. Lack of diagnostics or features led to recommendation of no further work.

SCAA Presents Legislator Steven Englebright with Award

Stony Brook-area State Legislator Steve Englebright has long been a champion of the environment (which also protects archaeological sites), has participated in the filming of SCAA's documentary film **The White Oak Connection: London, Azores, North Fork, L.I. in 17th Century Global Trade**, and has supported its production. He was instrumental in securing State participation in the LIPA Solar Pioneer Program and many other programs that have benefitted our citizens. For this, and much more, he was presented with the **Golden Trowel** award by SCAA's Treasurer, Dr. Gaynell Stone.



The Great Frontier on Long Island, N.Y.: Verrazzano and Early Epidemic Diseases continued... Phil C. Weigand, Ph.D.

The result of the combination of maritime, forest, and riverine resources with those derived from cultivation, occurring in the years after 1,000 AD, was a dramatic increase in the level of sociocultural complexity, leading some researchers to speak of "semi-stratified societies" (cf. Benison 1997:14). Clearly, the area-wide level of political organization implied by the term sachem (roughly: cacique) is attributable to this combined and complex subsistence strategy. It is clearly not the result of European contact, and the growth of the wampum manufactories. A map of the small Nausett Harbor, drawn by Champlain in 1605 (Figure #1), represents an approximation of the type of community seen in the general area, even after initial European contact. On this drawing, note the presence of a long-house, the probable residence of this minor settlement's sachem.

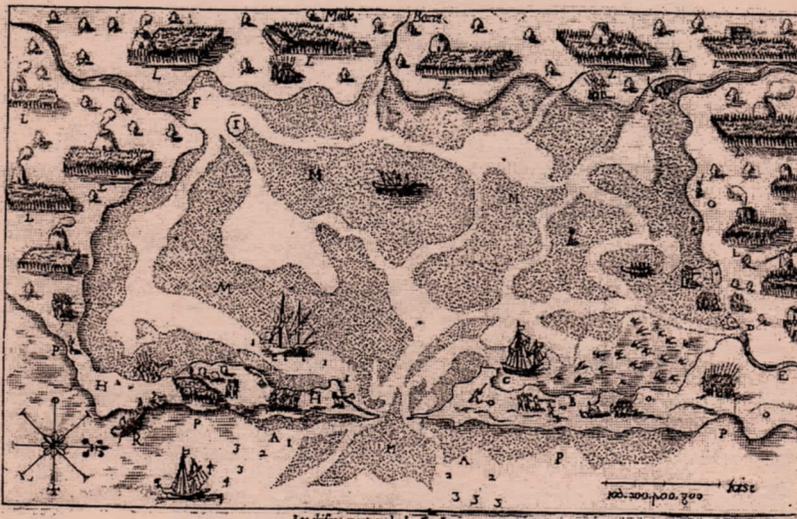


Figure 1

As mentioned, on Long Island, Ceci's (1977, 1979-80, and 1990) characterization of the absence of agriculture and the unproductive nature of soils has not gone without critical commentary. In her critique of Ceci's views, Silver (1980-81) has offered abundant evidence that the soils available for agriculture are not as reduced as Ceci maintains, pointing out the large areas of fertile soils all over the Island, especially

those classified as Haven Loams (between 36% and 47% of the Island's surface). Silver ends her critical review of Ceci with this statement:

"I suggest that the solution of the question about the prehistoric practice of agriculture in Coastal New York [i.e. Long Island] does not lie in the study of [the early colonial] documentary evidence. (1980-81:126).

Ceci's (1982) response to Silver's critique is largely a polemic one. Instead of a comprehensive examination of the new data clearly available to her, she has simply re-stated her prior positions. Her last presentations have become even more extreme in terms of her comments on demography and the reliability of the archaeology record, calling those works examples of regional pride instead of scientific research. In her 1982 publication, she even has revised further downward the previous demographic estimate from 6,000 (first suggested by Mooney 1928) to 3,000 for the entire Island. As mentioned, she has never systematically examined the crucial variable for sedentary life-style of marine and estuary resources for Long Island; she solely insists upon the relationship between demographic scale and agriculture. Thus, she has placed the full weight of her interpretations on her perception of the apparent absence of agriculture and a mistakenly conceived ethnographic base-line.

In addition, Ceci has dismissed the Nausett map as a tiny cluster of insignificant wigwams (small thatch structures), though the drawing clearly shows fairly large buildings, including the aforementioned long-house. As for the clear presence of maize in the Champlain drawing, she maintains that this already shows the influence of Europeans and hence their version of the wampum trade, even though in 1605 the Europeans had no permanent land-side presence in the area till 15 years later at Plymouth Bay, and thus would have been unable to influence subsistence production in any substantial fashion prior to that date. Ceci dismisses the archival evidence cited by Day (1953), concerning the extensive areas cleared of their forest cover in the zone, as being out-of-date, though she can offer no reason or current research to substantiate this claim. Silver (1980-81) argued strongly against Ceci's dismissal of the direct evidence for maize cultivation (pollen and carbonized cobs) on Long Island, and in southern New England in general. Certainly, subsequent excavations and pollen studies have strongly supported Silver's perspective. The direct evidence for maize cultivation during the late Woodland period throughout the area is undeniable (cf. Benison 1997). Her minimalization of the indigenous presence on Long Island has fed into some discussions which deny the need to accommodate those few remaining Native Americans in their continuing and never ending land dispute cases.

On Long Island, the best evidence in recent survey and excavation comes from Mt. Sinai Inlet on the North Shore, emptying into Long Island Sound. This research allows us to see that certain types of ecological zones could, and very likely did, support year-around settlement, sedentariness based upon intensified estuary exploitation (Gwynne 1982). Other sites, such as the Enleighbright (Gramly and Gwynne 1979) and Tiger Lily (Wisniewski and Gwynne 1982) sites, show similar manifestations. At Mt. Sinai in particular, Gwynne was able to show that a large percentage of the estuary's shoreline was covered with archaeological material, though the shell midden components had been very badly damaged by quarrying for lime during historic periods. The settlement at Mt. Sinai was very long-lived, intensive, and extensive, beginning in the Archaic and lasting till the late Woodland (an approximate 4,000+ year span). Detailed analysis of the shell materials show that all four seasons were represented in the harvesting of this resource. This constitutes very strong evidence for the year-around occupation of the estuary. The faunal evidence, which show monthly growth markers, strongly

supports this conclusion, as well. Lightfoot (1985) has examined the theme of shell midden diversity within southern New England, and regards the Mt. Sinai and Cape Cod cases (Gwynne [1982] and McManamon [1984], respectively) as the best but not only examples of year-around sedentary settlements. While Ritchie's (1959) examination of the neighboring Wading River Inlet and the Stony Brook sites was more cursory, that material is very similar to Mt. Sinai. At the time of his research, Ritchie characterized that site as a nomadic encampment, though re-examination of the faunal and shell materials nowadays suggests otherwise. Lightfoot, in his re-examination of the older archaeological record, also has suggested that near-by Muskeeta Cove #2 site (Salwen 1968) shows a very long history of habitation which changed from periodic occupation during the early and middle Woodland phases, to a permanent residential site by the late Woodland period, the approximate time that maize cultivation was introduced into the area. Specifically for Long Island, Lightfoot is careful to point out that the evidence he summarizes supports the argument for year-around settlements, as well as a moderate degree of demographic density, whether or not maize agriculture is considered.

More recent survey and very limited excavation in the Shoreham and Wading River Inlets, along the shore of Long Island Sound due east of Mt. Sinai, support the conclusions reached at the Mt. Sinai estuary (Weigand ms., Johanneman and Schroeder ms). The extensive profiles left by the excavations for the now-abandoned Shoreham nuclear plant showed a lengthy habitation history. While the shell and bone materials have yet to be analyzed from the perspective of seasonality, the artifacts are virtually identical with those described by Gwynne, Gramly and Wisniewski, cited supra.

This type of settling-in around estuary, marine and riverine resources has been documented for a wide range of areas, representing vastly differing settings, throughout North America (examples: Stark :1977; Scott 1985; Broyles and Webb 1970; cf. Caldwell 1958). It should come as no surprise that it existed upon Long Island in particular, and in southern New England in general. The combined archaeological evidence from Long Island strongly suggests that a high degree of estuary-oriented sedentariness, with the demographic corollary that this implies, was accomplished whether or not one considers the variable of maize cultivation.

What about the inland areas of Long Island? Although no area on Long Island is really too far removed from either the Atlantic Ocean or Long Island Sound, examination of these sites has proved far more problematical. Inland water resources are frequent and year-around. A large number of small lakes, marshes, and ponds exist in these zones, especially in the area between the two glacial moraines that cross the island on an east-west axis. The water table is so high in the Peconic River valley and along the southern (or Atlantic) shore, that drainage is frequently the major problem.. Silver has shown that profiles are actually best along the higher fringes of these inter-moraine areas. It was within this zone that the early settlers encountered areas that they considered to be meadows, but which much more likely were the remnants of Native American fields. In a detailed description of the difficulties of surveying within areas with dense forest and/or under-brush covers, a situation which describes much of Long Island, Lightfoot (1986) relates the unbalanced view that archaeologists (and hence historians) have of the inland settlement system: 80% of the Island's sites so far located are coastal. This is completely due to the differential visibility of the two zone's sites, rather than an actual percentile situation. In addition, 90% of the inland sites are encountered by earth-moving equipment in the process of land-leveling, highway construction, or excavations for house foundations, sewers, water lines, etc. This latter situation

provides excellent evidence that the inland sites are buried, and hence not easily located by surface survey. Sites from all over Suffolk County suggest highly specialized use: quarrying on Shelter Island (Lightfoot, Kalin, Lindauer, and Wicks 1985), hunting stations along the ridges of the inland zones (Johannemann and Schroeder 1978), and so on, indicating that, through time, a high degree of resource symbiosis between different sub-regions on the Island existed, with some indications for a settlement hierarchy. Certain inland sites, especially those near permanent lakes and ponds, such as Sunken Meadow and sections of the ex-R.C.A. property (Weigand ms./a), were true villages of some size. The ex-R.C.A. property offered one of the most favorable areas to examine an inland site, due to the nature of its recent utilization. It had many areas that were heavily altered by surface earth removal equipment, building staging areas for the great radio antennas (including the one originally used by Marconi for the first trans-Atlantic radio transmissions) and access roads. This damage, nonetheless, often only exposed rather than destroyed the archaeological deposits, leaving the deposits in these eroding surfaces quite visible and intelligible. While the sites thus exposed are largely composed of lithic scatters, they nonetheless are extensive, closely spaced, and numerous. These settlements could have been, beyond intensified gathering for acorns and hunting for deer (Kalin ms.), agricultural components for permanent estuary settlements, such as Mt. Sinai. There is little to suggest that they were permanently occupied, a conclusion also reached for the more extensive work done at Shelter Island.

As mentioned, it is within these regions that some of the early settlers noted the open spaces, which they interpreted as plains, though the remaining Native Americans on Long Island claimed as their defunct agricultural fields. In general, the ex-R.C.A. property, the Middle Island (Lightfoot, Moore, and Kalin 1985) and Nissequogue River valley (Johannemann 1982) surveys and excavations also offer revisions for the manner in which we had classically understood the inland economies and sociocultural organization of pre-contact Long Island. The research accomplished on Shelter Island (within the Peconic-Bay, between the two forks of the eastern-most sector of the Island), is the most extensive for an inland settlement component yet accomplished (Lightfoot, Kalin, and Moore 1987). A large expanse of the Mashomack Nature Preserve was sampled by the subsurface survey technique called shovel-testing (Lightfoot 1986). While this technique has been severely criticized, with specific reference to this work (Shott 1989), it nonetheless is the first combined survey-excavation of its sort for Long Island. As such, and despite the critique, it represents at least a partial view of an inland site or site system. Although no area of Shelter Island is really too far removed from the Peconic Bay, this project encountered a basic inland adaptation based on periodic occupation of the sites, obviously oriented toward hunting and gathering. This pattern is well enough documented by this research to imply that these sites were most probably stations within a larger settlement system, part of which, along the actual shores or sub-inlets of Shelter Island, might have been more permanent and resembling Mt. Sinai. These sectors of Shelter Island, however, were not investigated as thoroughly as the inland zones, so the question of symbiosis remains unanswered to date. However, the research was able to confirm a long history of periodic habitation, which included the late Woodland period. In addition, there was considerable density of occupation during anyone particular time period, arguing strongly for resource abundance. While the occupation thus appears to be largely oriented toward the coast, it also shows regularized and systematic use of inland

resources in the context of hunting and gathering.

In summary, many of the above cited projects have documented relatively well developed settlement densities, especially for the later phases commonly subsumed under the Late Woodland designation, though some cultural complexity is also evident earlier (f.n. #8). This relative settlement density, especially for the estuary areas, is beginning to appear as the rule rather than the exception, though, clearly, political centralization and stratified societies never evolved. Whatever the specifics concerning settlement patterns, and hence demography, turn out to be for Long Island, it is clear that the model developed by Ceci, dependent upon the mid-17th century sources, is no longer adequate as an explainer for Long Island's pre-contact situation.

What, then, explains the apparent disjuncture between the early historical references about the character of Native American settlement on Long Island, well summarized in Ceci's dissertation, and the archaeological evidence cited above? The explainer appears to be embedded in the nature of the post-contact but pre-settlement period, as detailed above. Specifically, the Verrazzano report (Hakluyt 1582) represents the true ethnographic base-line for the general area, though it is frustratingly brief. This voyage began in 1523 and was recorded in 1524 in Dieppe. There is universal agreement that Verrazzano indeed did reach the shores of New York and southern New England, making a brief landfall and contact with Native Americans in the Narrows of the former, and a fifteen day landfall somewhere in the Narragansett Bay (probably Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island) for the latter. Morrison (1971: 303ff) has the most convincing reconstruction of Verrazzano's route and landfalls for this area. It is important to remember that the opening of the Narragansett Bay is only 40 kms. over water from the eastern tip of Long Island. The closest point on the shore of New England is but 18 kms. from Long Island. At no point along Long Island Sound is either the southern shore of New England or the northern shore of Long Island out-of-sight (Figure #2). Far from being a barrier, Long Island Sound was the focal point for heavy traffic, with communication across the Sound being constant.

During his fifteen day visit in the Narragansett Bay,

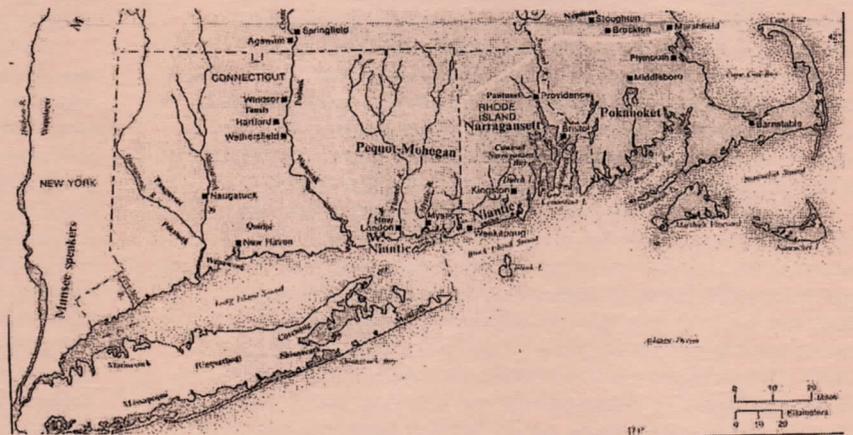


Figure 2

Verrazzano describes what he and his men encountered (Hakluyt 1582: 64-69). The eight points summarized below, as quotations from Hakluyt's 16th century English, represent those observations that may reflect social complexity, details of land utilization, and the settlement systems:

- 1) Possible emblems of office or status markers: "About his necke he had a large chaine, garnished with diuers stones of sundrie colours...11 (p. 65; f.n. #9);
- 2) Use of copper, and hence long distance trade (f.n.

provides excellent evidence that the inland sites are buried, and hence not easily located by surface survey. Sites from all over Suffolk County suggest highly specialized use: quarrying on Shelter Island (Lightfoot, Kalin, Lindauer, and Wicks 1985), hunting stations along the ridges of the inland zones (Johannemann and Schroeder 1978), and so on, indicating that, through time, a high degree of resource symbiosis between different sub-regions on the Island existed, with some indications for a settlement hierarchy. Certain inland sites, especially those near permanent lakes and ponds, such as Sunken Meadow and sections of the ex-R.C.A. property (Weigand ms./a), were true villages of some size. The ex-R.C.A. property offered one of the most favorable areas to examine an inland site, due to the nature of its recent utilization. It had many areas that were heavily altered by surface earth removal equipment, building staging areas for the great radio antennas (including the one originally used by Marconi for the first trans-Atlantic radio transmissions) and access roads. This damage, nonetheless, often only exposed rather than destroyed the archaeological deposits, leaving the deposits in these eroding surfaces quite visible and intelligible. While the sites thus exposed are largely composed of lithic scatters, they nonetheless are extensive, closely spaced, and numerous. These settlements could have been, beyond intensified gathering for acorns and hunting for deer (Kalin ms.), agricultural components for permanent estuary settlements, such as Mt. Sinai. There is little to suggest that they were permanently occupied, a conclusion also reached for the more extensive work done at Shelter Island.

As mentioned, it is within these regions that some of the early settlers noted the open spaces, which they interpreted as plains, though the remaining Native Americans on Long Island claimed as their defunct agricultural fields. In general, the ex-R.C.A. property, the Middle Island (Lightfoot, Moore, and Kalin 1985) and Nissequogue River valley (Johannemann 1982) surveys and excavations also offer revisions for the manner in which we had classically understood the inland economies and sociocultural organization of pre-contact Long Island. The research accomplished on Shelter Island (within the Peconic-Bay, between the two forks of the eastern-most sector of the Island), is the most extensive for an inland settlement component yet accomplished (Lightfoot, Kalin, and Moore 1987). A large expanse of the Mashomack Nature Preserve was sampled by the subsurface survey technique called shovel-testing (Lightfoot 1986). While this technique has been severely criticized, with specific reference to this work (Shott 1989), it nonetheless is the first combined survey-excavation of its sort for Long Island. As such, and despite the critique, it represents at least a partial view of an inland site or site system. Although no area of Shelter Island is really too far removed from the Peconic Bay, this project encountered a basic inland adaptation based on periodic occupation of the sites, obviously oriented toward hunting and gathering. This pattern is well enough documented by this research to imply that these sites were most probably stations within a larger settlement system, part of which, along the actual shores or sub-inlets of Shelter Island, might have been more permanent and resembling Mt. Sinai. These sectors of Shelter Island, however, were not investigated as thoroughly as the inland zones, so the question of symbiosis remains unanswered to date. However, the research was able to confirm a long history of periodic habitation, which included the late Woodland period. In addition, there was considerable density of occupation during anyone particular time period, arguing strongly for resource abundance. While the occupation thus appears to be largely oriented toward the coast, it also shows regularized and systematic use of inland

resources in the context of hunting and gathering.

In summary, many of the above cited projects have documented relatively well developed settlement densities, especially for the later phases commonly subsumed under the Late Woodland designation, though some cultural complexity is also evident earlier (f.n. #8). This relative settlement density, especially for the estuary areas, is beginning to appear as the rule rather than the exception, though, clearly, political centralization and stratified societies never evolved. Whatever the specifics concerning settlement patterns, and hence demography, turn out to be for Long Island, it is clear that the model developed by Ceci, dependent upon the mid-17th century sources, is no longer adequate as an explainer for Long Island's pre-contact situation.

What, then, explains the apparent disjuncture between the early historical references about the character of Native American settlement on Long Island, well summarized in Ceci's dissertation, and the archaeological evidence cited above? The explainer appears to be embedded in the nature of the post-contact but pre-settlement period, as detailed above. Specifically, the Verrazzano report (Hakluyt 1582) represents the true ethnographic base-line for the general area, though it is frustratingly brief. This voyage began in 1523 and was recorded in 1524 in Dieppe. There is universal agreement that Verrazzano indeed did reach the shores of New York and southern New England, making a brief landfall and contact with Native Americans in the Narrows of the former, and a fifteen day landfall somewhere in the Narragansett Bay (probably Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island) for the latter. Morrison (1971: 303ff) has the most convincing reconstruction of Verrazzano's route and landfalls for this area. It is important to remember that the opening of the Narragansett Bay is only 40 kms. over water from the eastern tip of Long Island. The closest point on the shore of New England is but 18 kms. from Long Island. At no point along Long Island Sound is either the southern shore of New England or the northern shore of Long Island out-of-sight (Figure #2). Far from being a barrier, Long Island Sound was the focal point for heavy traffic, with communication across the Sound being constant.

During his fifteen day visit in the Narragansett Bay,

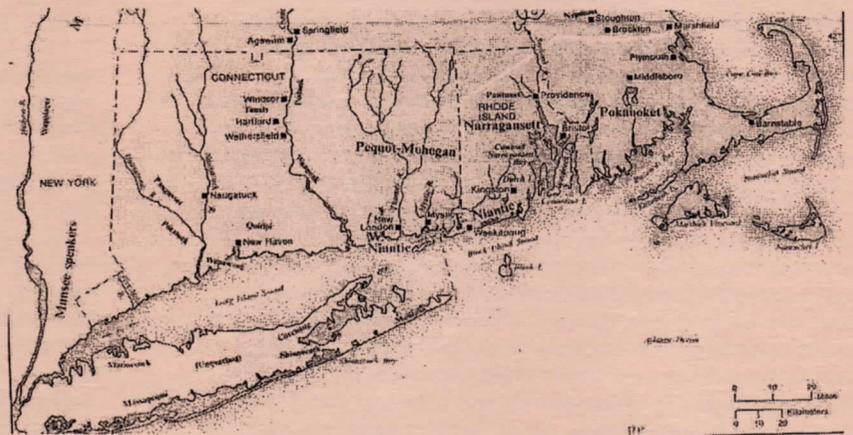


Figure 2

Verrazzano describes what he and his men encountered (Hakluyt 1582: 64-69). The eight points summarized below, as quotations from Hakluyt's 16th century English, represent those observations that may reflect social complexity, details of land utilization, and the settlement systems:

- 1) Possible emblems of office or status markers: "About his necke he had a large chaine, garnished with diuers stones of sundrie colours...11 (p. 65; f.n. #9);
- 2) Use of copper, and hence long distance trade (f.n.

#10): "Among whom wee sawe many plates of wrought coper..." (p. 65).

- 3) Concentrations of people: "They came in great companies of their small boates..." (p. 66);
- 4) Probable extended family/lineage households: "The father and the whole familie dwell together in one house in great number: in or 30 persons. II (p. 68);
- 5) Some seasonality of settlement geared to resources: "They mooue the foresaide houses from one place to commoditie of the place an season,..." (P.66);
- 6) Broad clearings and the placement of agricultural fields: "...wee were oftentimes within the lande 5 or 6 leagues, which wee found as pleasant as is possible to declare, very apt for any kind of husbandry, of corne, wine, and oyle: for that there are plaines of 25 or 30 leagues broad, open and without any impediment of trees[,] of such fruitfulness, that any seede being sowne therein, will bring forth most excellent fruite." (p. 67);
- 7) Direct mention of agriculture per se: "They feede as the other doe aforesaide, of pulse, whiche doe growe in that countrey with better order of husbandry the in the others." (p. 68); and,
- 8) Agriculture geared to a lunar and stellar calendar: "They obserue in their sowing the course of the Moone, and the rising of certaine starres,..." (p. 68).

It is not possible to quantify from Verrazzano's descriptions, nor to postulate many specifics about demography, social organization, or the settlement system. But we can cautiously generalize about several points of social relevance on the nature of Native American economies and the social order: Verrazzano encountered agriculturally based villages which were probably organized as extended lineages, led by males (the sachem of later documents)—marked with emblems. The villages were not isolated or completely independent one from another, but were organized into systems of seasonal activities that, aside from agriculture, involved hunting, gathering, and fishing.

Common languages certainly aided communications over a wide area within the region. Eastern Long Island and southern New England were all Algonquian speakers at the time of the European expeditions and colonization. Later sources, summarized by Simmons (1978) and Gookin (1972), such as the Dutch explorer, Adriaen Block (1614), and the Englishman, William Rogers (1636), mentioned the extent of Narragasset's political and economic influence within the region. As the English and Dutch became more interested in questions of regularized trade, colonization, and territory, their observations became much more acute. As a result, we know from the just mentioned sources that the Narragasset sachem, with its allied and junior groups, held dominion over a fairly wide area which included all of the Rhode Island Inlet, parts of Connecticut, southern Massachusetts, Nantucket Island, Block Island and parts of Long Island extending as far south and east as Montauk. This is not a small area, though most of it is open water. However, the open water was absolutely no barrier to either trade or social control—indeed, it appeared to have facilitated these contacts. The Narragasset sachem was therefore focused on Long Island Sound, and, as mentioned, included parts of Long Island at its peak. One reason for the Narragasset ascendancy, aside from the wealth of estuary resources and fine agricultural land, may have been their control over the area's only argillite outcrops (Strauss 1989). While this green-grey argillite was not of the best quality, it was valuable enough to be traded for over a very large region, including Long Island. In addition, the Narragasset may have been the middle-men for the Long Island Sound based trade of raw copper, and, most probably, the copper artifacts made

from the Canadian sources at Cot d'Or.

During the early colonial period, warfare between Native American polities continued, with the Europeans often aiding first one side and then the other. As late as 1643, in the general context of the ongoing and ever accelerating social and cultural collapse, much of which continued to be disease induced, the Narragasset were still expanding, eliminating first the Pequot and then the Mohegan in western Connecticut. Their polity collapsed in the aftermath of King Philip's War. This war was the last expression of Native American independence in the overall region, and had touches of a revitalization movement, as well. The execution by the colonists of their last sachem, Canonchet, in 1676 marked the absolute end.

How much of the Narragasset expansion is due to the disruption that initial European contact introduced, beginning with Verrazzano, and how much is a continuation of the political and economic dynamics already underway before the first contact are questions still to be debated by archaeologists and historians. Whatever the outcome, we can note several important facts:

- 1) Long Island Sound never represented a geological barrier for contacts between Long Island and New England, and, indeed, the Sound facilitated contacts over a fairly large region;
- 2) Political and economic systems in the general area nor simply village based;
- 3) Political control was exercised through the institution represented by the sachem, who at in later times held their offices through inheritance, and who held territorial sway over other less important sachem;
- 4) Agricultural villages were numerous and fairly large, integrated into symbiotic relationships with one another which focused upon the exchange of local goods which included and apparently emphasized foodstuffs;
- 5) Long distance exchange relationships were important for basic resources, such as argillite, as well as status markers, and covered much of the northeastern United States and parts of Canada as far away as the Cot d'Or;
- 6) Long Island was an integrated part of the southern New England sociocultural system and cannot be viewed as isolated or sufficiently different from that general contacts were frequent, systematized, intensive, and important in social and cultural terms throughout the entire region;
- 7) The balance of power between many of the sachem in southern New England was upset by the general presence of Europeans in the area, especially reflected in the late (post-contact) Narragasset expansion to the west (the elimination of the Pequot and Mohegan in Connecticut); that this western expansion marks the disintegration of the original, wider native system, and the beginning of a response polity operating progressively more and more within the incipient European colonial realm, marked to an important degree by the flourishing of the wampum manufactories and trade;
- 8) Narragasset influence and expansion to the east (i.e. Block Island, Nantucket Island, southern-most Massachusetts—the Buzzards Bay area, and parts of eastern Long Island including Montauk), most probably reflects in large part a pre-contact situation, though that system was probably originally designed from alliances between sachem rather than from overt military efforts (f.n. #11);
- 9) It appears to have been no accident that Verrazzano

targeted the Narragasset for his fifteen day visit, as they would have been the most notable of all the regional sachem at that time; and, 10). What is described in the many of preceding points is the social residue post-dating the Verrazzano contact, and it remains a strong possibility that the pre-contact sociocultural situation may have been more complex, especially on Long Island, and certainly different, with less dependence on force and more dependence on alliances and alliance building, which, by its very nature, included the regularized exchange of status markers. To be continued....

Major Skeletal Find on Shelter Island

A policeman excavating to build a barn on his Osprey Rd. property uncovered a pit containing four or more flexed burials, which indicated they were Native American. They will be studied by the county's forensic anthropologist, Dr. Vincent Stefan. The mass burial, unless caused by disease or hostilities, would appear to be more like those of the Transitional Period, ca. 3,500 - 3,000 years ago, according to archaeologist Al Cammisa. If the skeletons are excavated by current archaeological methods, it will be the first scientific retrieval on the Island of such information. Previous burials found on Long Island are reported in SCAA's Vols. I, II, III, V, and the in-production Vol. VIII, *Native Fort of the Long Island Sound Area*.

Archaeological Conferences

Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology meeting, held Oct. 23-26, Lowell, MA. Dr. Gaynell Stone gave a paper on SCAA's public archaeology (museum education) program.

Eastern States Archaeological Federation meeting to be held November 13-16 at Mt. Laurel, NJ. Info: <http://esaf-archaeology.org/>

Archaeological Institute of America to be held January 2-5, San Francisco, CA. Information: [Http://www.archaeological.org/](http://www.archaeological.org/)

Society for Historical Archaeology conference to be held Jan. 7-11, 2004 at St. Louis, MO. Information: www.sha.org/mt2004.htm

Middle Atlantic Conference to be held March 12-14, 2004 at Rehoboth Beach, DE. Information: www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/

Society for American Archaeology to be held March 31-April 4, 2004 at Montreal, Canada. www.saa.org

N.Y. State Archaeological Association to be held April 30-May 2 at Rochester, NY. Information: <http://www.home.eznet.net/~spoon/nysaa.html>.



"Some day some archeologist will go batty trying to figure out what that means."

Edwin Levett

THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory
All volumes are \$40. + \$5. Shipping, xcept Vol. III, 2d ed., which is \$75. + \$6. Shipping, both plus 8.50% sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I is out of print; a few copies of Cols. IV and VI remain.

- I Early Paper in Long Island Archaeology
- II The Coastal Archaeology Reader
- III History & Archaeology of the Montauk, 2d ed.
- IV Languages & Lore of the Long Island Indians
- V The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader
- VI The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History
- VII The Historical Archaeology of L.I.: Part 1 - The Sites
- VIII The Native Forts of L.I. Sound (in press).

Student Series (Including shipping)

<i>Booklet: A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of L.I.</i>	\$6.
<i>Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans</i>	8.
<i>Wall Chart: Native Technology (26x39"-3 colors)</i>	14.
<i>Map: Native Long Island (26x39"-3 colors)</i>	14.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in SCAA includes 3 Newsletters per year and a 10% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax deductible.

Student (to 18)	\$10.	Individual	\$20.
Family	30.	Sustaining	50.
Contributing	100.	Patron	100.
Life Member	400.		

Date:

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone No.

Willing to volunteer?

Occupation:

Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association, P.O. Box 1542, Stony Brook, NY 11790 - Tel: 631-929-8725

Programs of the S.C. Archaeological Association are funded in part by public monies from the New York State Council on the Arts - Decentralization, the Suffolk County Office of Cultural Affairs, and County and State Legislators.

